

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: April 19, 2006

DIVISION: COMMUNITY SERVICES

BULK ITEM: NO

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Presentation of Years of Service Award for 20 years of service to Tom Hambright, Librarian, Local History, Key West Library, Community Services

ITEM BACKGROUND: See attached

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: N/A

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Present Award

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: N/A

COST TO COUNTY: N/A

REVENUE PRODUCING: N/A

AMOUNT PER MONTH /YEAR: N/A

APPROVED BY: County Attorney N/A

OMB/Purchasing N/A Risk Management N/A

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL



Sheila Barker

DOCUMENTATION: Included X

To Follow

Not Required

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

**YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD**  
**TOM HAMBRIGHT**  
**LIBRARIAN, LOCAL HISTORY**

Tom Hambright has served the Monroe County Public Library and the entire Monroe County community as Local Historian for the past 20 years. He is acclaimed for his extensive knowledge on the history of Key West, the Florida Keys, and beyond.

Before joining the Library staff, Tom served 21 years in the Navy, where he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Following that retirement, he worked as Curator for the Lighthouse Museum and East Martello for three years. Tom and his wife and assistant Lynda have been married since 1994.

In his 20 years of Library service, Tom has given presentations on Monroe County history to most of the non-profit organizations in the County, from Key Largo to Key West, and is widely known as the "Keys Historian." In this capacity he has worked with authors, newspaper writers, and television producers and has appeared on television himself a number of times. During this time he assisted in the planning for and construction of a new wing and special vault for the unique Florida History collection that he has helped to develop and carefully oversees. He was honored as Monroe County Employee of the Year in 1999.

Tom has served on the Board of Directors of the Old Island Restoration Foundation and the Key West Art and Historical Society. He is presently on the board of the Key West Maritime Historical Society, and has published articles in the *Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal* and *The Florida Genealogist*. With his wife Lynda, he has produced the daily column "Today in Keys History" for *The Key West Citizen* since 1998, and is a regular contributor to numerous other historical publications.

Although the Florida History collection, under Tom's guidance, has grown to be an extensive collection of unique materials, Tom's own memory is the real treasure of the collection. He has been known to come up with histories of Key West people, places, and events, from a simple question, complete with accurate detail of names, dates, and locations. Patrons frequently refer to him for history information before beginning their research, and when he refers them to the written source material, inevitably find that his recall is accurate and complete.

Tom Hambright is an extraordinary ambassador for Monroe County, a valued colleague to his fellow employees, and a historic treasure to the community. We are grateful for his 20 years of special service on behalf of the Monroe County Library, and look forward to many more.